



The Canadian Champion

Milton's Business of the Year for 1989

Established 1861

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The empire grows

In today's issue we are greeted by three developments on the public education front. One is welcome. We are ambivalent about the second and deplore the third.

The welcome change is a broadening of early morning routines designed to encourage a positive outlook on the day. The Lord's Prayer will still probably be used, periodically, as an opening school rite. But it will be supplemented with the expressions of religions outside Christianity, and with the thoughts of more secular students of life. We applaud that — there's enough rote work in most schools already.

Second, in the bloated bureaucracy that is today's educational system, we are neither uplifted or dismayed at the prospect of teachers earning approximately \$60,000 under the terms of a new agreement with the Halton Board of Education. We do, however, note with disquiet the fact that teachers have negotiated to soften the impact of the incoming GST in their latest wage package. Others will undoubtedly do the same. Who exactly is to bear the brunt of the new tax?

Lastly, we deplore the prospect of throwing away, because that's what it is, hard-earned tax money for all the bells and whistles some want to accompany the Province's new junior kindergarten program.

Do we need 118 teachers earning on average \$40,000 babysitting three and four year olds? No. Do we need to spend \$4.3 million on classrooms for these children? No.

"How much money can the taxpayer take?" asked Milton trustee Bob Clarke, who apparently along with a handful of his colleagues at least had the grace to be ill at ease with the prospect. Mr. Clarke also suggested JK be held in church basements rather than in new classrooms, the revolutionary concept being, no doubt, that three-year-olds won't much notice the difference.

We don't want to downplay the importance of what amounts to a bridge day-care system. It's an absolute necessity, given that both parents (if there are two parents) work in so many families today. It's just too bad it must be absorbed into the giant, lumbering, ever-expanding educational empire.

Because all the power blocs in that empire will, rest assured, have their expensive say as to facilities, manpower and programs. Its starting already. Do any of us really believe highly paid, unionized teachers will make do in church basements while their peers have all the accoutrements of a standard Halton board classroom? Do any of us really believe those teachers will permit many less qualified (less expensive) babysitters to usurp their newfound turf?

Already the prince of one Halton board duchy — Gary Crossman, the superintendent of instructional services, has boldly stated the new program "should be well done or we should not do it at all." How does that fit in with church basements?

Rest assured, when the Halton Board of Education, in all its glorious components, is finished with JK it will be a thing of beauty. Things of beauty can be so expensive, both to build and maintain. We taxpayers should know that by now.

Please be careful

We add this short note to urge extra caution on area roads through the summer months. Two automobile-related tragedies are recounted in this issue. The summer months are the most dangerous on our roads. Police have statistics bearing this judgment out. Please, be careful.

Pud



Looking back



Milton District High School students packed up to leave for a 30-day tour of Europe in July, 1969. Judy Joyce, Barry Laing and Janet Beverley were among 42 students who worked for a year and a half to raise the money for the summer holiday overseas.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the July 12, 1989 issue
 □ Milton Council has approved construction plans by Canada Brick that will move the company closer to a new \$40-million facility at the foot of the escarpment. But they have also moved the brick makers a step closer to expanding their open mining pit there, too.
 □ Cloth diapers are making a comeback in today's environmentally conscious society. Mee Mee has introduced 100 per cent cotton diapers with colourful gortex waterproof outers. These hand-made, one-size fits all Mee Mees cost \$63.95 per dozen and are available in different colours and prints. They are said to last longer than the baby will use them.
 □ One bad shot is all that stood between Craig McLuckie and first place at the inaugural stop on the 1989

Accuform Golf Tour at Southern Pines Golf and Country Club in Burlington. McLuckie, a member of the Wyldeewood Golf and Country Club in Milton, missed the green with his tee shot on the par-three 17th hole and then three-putted for a double bogey five.

20 Years Ago

From the July 15, 1970 issue
 □ Unless the Ontario government meets their demands on taxation reform, Ontario Federation of Agriculture members will withhold education taxes this year. That's the message OFA president Gordon Hill gave MPP Jim Snow of Halton East and George Kerr of Halton West, Minister of Energy and Resources, at a meeting at the Department of Agriculture office in Milton.
 □ Warmer water is the prospect for the community swimming pool in Rotary Park, following presentation by the Rotary Club of \$2,492 for the installation of pool heaters. Work is to begin as soon as possible. The units are designed to hold the water temperature at 80 degrees even if the outside temperature should drop to 55.
 □ Milton Lions Bantams scored back to back ties in a 4-4 contest against Georgetown and then tied Brampton 3-3. That tie marked the team's 13th consecutive undefeated baseball game.

50 Years Ago

From the July 11, 1940 issue
 □ The Orangemen will celebrate the Glorious 12th of July Tomorrow.
 □ Conservation of natural resources means to the average man the careful husbanding of the last ton of coal.
 □ Up until July 1st, there were no prostrations from the heat reported. There is still July and August of summer yet.